

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace the prior version of the claims in the present application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A stator core formed by laminated strip-shaped straight cores including a plurality of teeth portions comprising:
bent portions being provided with V-shaped notches, which define V-shaped gaps opened to one direction and interposing between each of the teeth portions, the straight cores being formed into an annular configuration by bending the bent portions in a direction so as to close the V-shaped notches;
circular holes being provided at the bent portions so as to form a series of gaps between each of the teeth portions; and
deformation preventing portions ~~formed on the bent portions by cutting off a part of a pair of oblique lines being a part of the bent portions and including cutting-off parts of a pair of oblique portions~~ defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand the gaps of the V-shaped notches and circular holes for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress of bending process.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A stator core comprising:
a plurality of independent segment cores, each segment core having a teeth portion;
strip-shaped straight cores including a plurality of teeth portions, bent portions being provided with V-shaped notches and interposing between each of the teeth portions of the strip-shaped straight cores, the strip-shaped straight cores being laminated in the thickness direction together with the segment cores;
~~segment core elements having plural independent segment cores formed by cutting off each of teeth portions;~~
~~wherein the stator core is made by a steps of;~~
~~laminating the straight cores and the segment cores;~~
wherein the laminated strip-shaped straight cores are bent at bending the bent portions in a direction so as to close the V-shaped notches to form an annular stator core.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A stator core according to claim 2, wherein, deformation preventing portions formed on the bent portions ~~by cutting off a part of a pair of oblique~~

lines being a part of the bent portions and including cutting-off parts of a pair of oblique portions defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand a gap formed within the V-shaped notches for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress of bending process.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An electric motor comprising:

a stator; and

a rotor including a magnetic material facing to the stator core in radial direction; wherein the stator includes a stator core formed by strip-shaped straight cores having a plurality of teeth portions, bent portions being provided with V-shaped notches and interposing between each of the teeth portions and bending the bent portions in a direction so as to close the V-shaped notches to form annular stator core, circular holes being provided in the bent portions in a manner that the circular holes are continuously formed with tip portions of each of the V-shaped notches and deformation preventing portions formed on the bent portions by cutting-off a part of a pair of oblique lines being a part of the bent portions and including cutting-off parts of a pair of oblique portions defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand the gaps of the V-shaped notches and the circular holes for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress of bending process.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electric motor comprising:

a stator; and

a rotor including a magnetic material facing to the stator core in radial direction; wherein the stator includes a stator core formed by strip-shaped straight cores having a plurality of teeth portions, bent portions being provided with V-shaped notches and interposing between each of the teeth portions and bending the bent portions in a direction so as to close the V-shaped notches to form annular stator core, circular holes being provided in the bent portions in a manner that the circular holes are continuously formed with tip portions of each of the V-shaped notches and deformation preventing portions formed on the bent portions by cutting-off a part of a pair of oblique lines being a part of the bent portions and including cutting-off parts of a pair of oblique portions defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand the gaps of the V-shaped

notches and the circular holes for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress of bending process; and
wherein segment core elements having plural independent segment cores formed by cutting off each of teeth portions are alternatively laminated with the straight cores so as to form a plurality of slits within the stator core.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)